Note ichtyologique / *Ichthyological note*

Occurrence of two Lessepsian migrant fish, *Oxyurichthys petersi* (Gobiidae) and *Upeneus pori* (Mullidae), from the Aegean Sea

by

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RÉSUMÉ. - Présence de deux poissons de migration lessepsienne *Oxyurichthys petersi* (Gobiidae) et *Upeneus pori* (Mullidae), dans la mer Égée.

Deux espèces de poissons migrants de la mer Rouge, *Oxyurichthys petersi* (Gobiidae) et *Upeneus pori* (Mullidae), sont mentionnées pour la première fois en mer Égée. La présence de ces espèces dans la mer Égée résulte d'une migration de la mer Rouge *via* le Canal de Suez.

Key words. - Gobidae - Mullidae - *Oxyurichthys petersi* - *Upeneus pori* - MED - Aegean Sea - Lessepsian - First record.

Golani (1998) declared that no zoogeographic marine area of the world had been affected more by man-made changes than the eastern Mediterranean, i.e. Suez Canal. Since the opening of the Canal in 1869, the number of lessepsian (Red Sea) migrant fish in the Mediterranean has been increasing continuously. The invasion of Red Sea organisms through the Suez Canal, known as the "Lessepsian migration" (after Ferdinand de Lesseps, the Frenchman who directed the canal's construction), has profoundly modified the ecosystem of the eastern Mediterranean, and the lessepsian fish species constitute 13.2% of the total number of ichthyofauna in the Levant (Golani, 1998).

Bilecenoglu *et al*. (2002) chronologically listed a total of 33 lessepsian immigrant fish species, and many of them exist in the Levant basin, on the Turkish coasts. However, 61 species of lessepsian fish in the Mediterranean have been reported so far (Golani *et al*., 2002; Gökoglu *et al*., 2003; Akyol *et al*., 2005). But two previously recorded species from the Levant basin of Turkey have been found in the southern Aegean Sea, recently. The specimens of new immigrants were deposited in the fish collection of the Faculty of Fisheries, Ege University (ESFM-PIS).

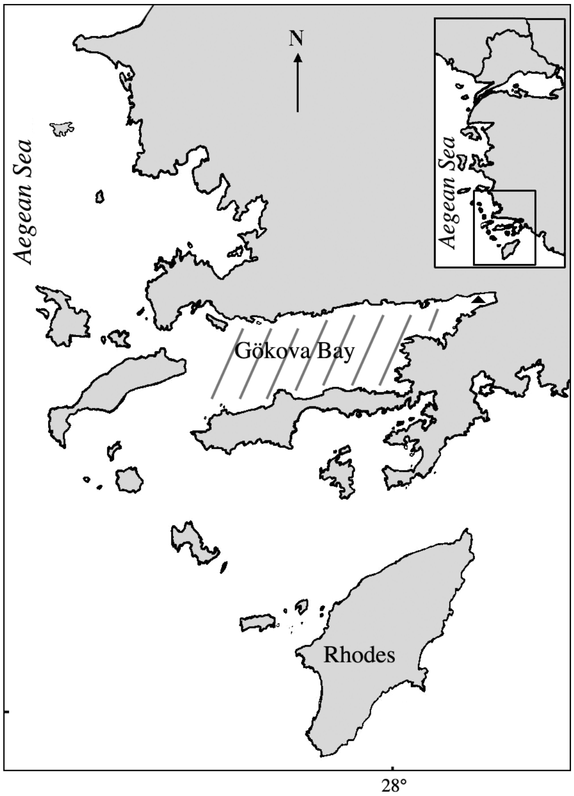

Figure 1. - Map of the sampling locality of *Oxyurichthys petersi* and *Upeneus pori*. *[Localisation des captures.]*

Oxyurichthys petersi (Klunzinger, 1871)

ESFM-PIS/05-002, one specimen, Gökova Bay (Fig.1), 122 mm SL, trammel net (40 mm mesh size), sandy bottom at a depth of 35 m, 15 May 2005, collected by fisherman M. Karakan.

The body is elongated and compressed. It has two dorsal fins and the first dorsal spine is the longest. The caudal fin is lanceolate and contains a black spot on the caudal peduncle. The pectoral fin is rounded to slightly pointed. The pelvic fins are united, forming a complete sucking disk, originating under the pectoral fin base. The jaws are oblique, extending back reaching almost to the vertical of the posterior edge of the eye. A single row of caniniform teeth is present in the upper jaw, while there are two rows of teeth in the lower jaw. There is a flap on the upper edge of the eye, and it is bright orange in colour. The back is greenish-grey and lighter below, with an irregular yellow band along the lateral midline. The predorsal ridge is orange. Although common Indo-Pacific fish species, *Oxyurichthys petersi* is hitherto reported only to be found in the Levant (Ben-Tuvia, 1983; Kaya *et al*., 1992). According to local fishermen, this species was encountered for the first time in the region. The gobiid migrant occurring in the Mediterranean is *O. petersi*. It has been misidentified for many years as *O. papuensis* (Valenciennes, 1837) according to Golani *et al*. (2002).

Upeneus pori Ben-Tuvia & Golani, 1989

ESFM-PIS/05-001, three specimens, Gökova Bay, 126, 128, 138 mm SL, gill net (34 mm mesh size), sandy and muddy bottom at a depth of 30 m, 2 Jun. 2005, collected by O. Akyol.

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The body is elongated. The snout is rounded. The chin has two short thin barbels. The body is reddish-brown with darker hues above and lighter hues below. The first dorsal fin shows a 3-5 series of reddish-brown spots running parallel to the upper margin of the fin. The second dorsal fin has a 3-4 series of slightly larger spots running horizontally. The upper lobe of the caudal fin shows 4-7 oblique reddish-brown bars with white interspaces. The upper margin of the lower lobe has approximately 4-5 oblique bars of the same color.

U. pori differs from other species of *Upeneus* with 7 dorsal spines and shorter head and barbels. Its length is shorter than or equal to the distance from the tip of the snout to the posterior margin of the eye. Normally it has 14 pectoral rays. *U. pori* does not occur in the Indo-Pacific beyond the Red Sea, and this species is reported to be only in the Levant (Ben-Tuvia and Golani, 1989; Golani, 1994, 1998; Taskavak and Bilecenoglu, 2001). Golani stated that in spite of the species being known to exist already in southern Turkey, its occurrence in the southern Aegean Sea is an interesting extension of the distribution range (pers. comm.).

All measurements, counts, and colour patterns determined are in accordance with descriptions of Golani *et al.* (2002) for *O. petersi*; Ben-Tuvia and Golani (1989) and Golani *et al.* (2002) for *U. pori*.

In conclusion, the occurrence of these two new immigrant Red Sea fishes, *O. petersi* and *U. pori* in the Aegean Sea does not clearly indicate an established population, but they may be a sign of a step-by-step process of migration.

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